

Remarks

Favorable reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks and discussion.

Entry of the amendments to the claims is requested, as the amendments place the application in clear condition for allowance, or alternatively place the claims in better form for appeal. Specifically, the claims are amended to recite additional features of the magnetic circuit including magnets magnetized in three or four portions, which were recited in the original claims, and which are not disclosed or rendered obvious by the applied reference.

Claims 1, 8-12, 19-24, 30-33, 38-41, 47-50 and 55-57 are pending in the application. Claims 2-7, 13-18, 25-29, 34-37, 42-46 and 51-54 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and Claims 1, 12, 24, 33, 41, 50 are amended.

In the Office Action claims 1, 2, 8, 12, 13, 19, 21, 23-25, 30, 32-34, 38, 40-42, 47, 49-51, 55 and 57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. In response; it is submitted that for the reasons set forth in the Amendment filed on November 14, 2005, the specification clearly describes a magnet magnetized in three polarities and in four polarities, as recited in the original claims. Regardless, in order to advance prosecution of the application, claims 2, 13, 25, 34, 42 and 51 are canceled, and the remaining claims are amended so as not to recite magnetized in three polarities and in four polarities, as appropriate. It is requested that the rejection of the remaining claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112 be withdrawn.

In the Office Action claims 1, 2, 8, 12, 13, 19, 21, 23-25, 30, 32-34, 38, 40-42, 47, 49-51, 55 and 57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Publication No. 10-116431 to Ikegame. The rejection of claims 2, 13, 25, 34, 42 and 51 is mooted by the cancellation of these claims. It is requested that the rejection of the remaining claims be withdrawn, and the claims allowed, for the following reasons.

The present invention, as set forth in independent claim 1, is directed to an objective lens drive apparatus for use in an optical pickup. Specifically, the independent claim recites a magnetic circuit including a magnet magnetized in at least three portions. A focus coil, a tracking coil and a tilt coil are disposed within a magnetic gap of the magnetic circuit.

It is submitted that Ikegame does not disclose or render obvious the claimed features of a magnet magnetized in at least three portions, as recited in independent claim 1. The allowance of independent claim 1 is therefore requested.

Independent claims 12, 24, 33, 41 and 50 are allowable for reasons similar to those of independent claim 1. It is requested that the rejection of the independent claims be withdrawn, and that independent claims 12, 24, 33, 41 and 50 be allowed.

The remaining claims, including the remaining withdrawn claims, are allowable for the same reasons as the independent claims from which they depend, as well as for their own features. It is therefore requested that the remaining withdrawn claims be treated on the merits, and that the remaining dependent claims be allowed.

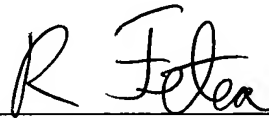
Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

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Reply to Office Action of February 8, 2006

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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